NUMB. CXLI.

The GUARDIAN.

Frange, miſer, calamos, vigilataque prælia dele,
Qui facis in parvâ ſublimia Carmina Cellâ,
Ut dignus venias Hederis, & Imagine Macrâ. Juv.

Saturday, Auguſt 22. 1713.

WIT, ſaith the Biſhop of *Rocheſter* in [illegible] elegant Sermon againſt the Scorner, *as it implies a certain uncommon Reach and Vivacity of Thought, is an Excellent Talent, very fit to be employ'd in the Search of Truth, and very capable of aſſiſting us to diſcern and embrace it.* I ſhall take leave to carry this Obſervation further into common Life, and remark, that it is a Faculty, when properly directed, [illegible] to recommend young Perſons to the Favour of ſuch Patrons, as are generouſly ſtudious to promote the Intereſt of Politeneſs, and the Honour of their Country. I am therefore much grieved to hear the frequent Complaints of ſome riſing Authors [illegible] I have taken under my Guardianſhip. Since my Circumſtances will not allow me to give the[illegible]ragement, I muſt take upon me the Perſon of a Philoſopher, and make them a Preſent of my Advice. I would not have any Poet whatſoever, who is not born to Five hundred a Year, deliver himſelf up to Wit, but as it is ſubſervient to the Improvement [illegible] Fortune. This Talent is uſeful in all Profeſſions, and ſhould be conſidered not as a Wife, but as an Attendant. Let them take an old Man's Word; the Deſire of Fame grows languid in a few Years, and Thoughts of Eaſe and Convenience eraſe the Fairy Images of Glory and Honour. Even thoſe who have ſucceeded both in Fame and Fortune, look back on the petty Trifles of their Youth with ſome Regret, when their Minds are turned to more [illegible] and uſeful Speculations. This is admirably [illegible] in the following Lines, by an Author, whom I have formerly done Juſtice to on the Account of his Paſtoral Poems.

In ſearch of W[illegible] far from [illegible] fly.
Wit is a H[illegible]beauteous [illegible]
In whoſe bewitching Arms [illegible]
We waſte, and Vigour of [illegible]me:
But when Reflection comes [illegible]
And Ma[illegible] with a Thoug[illegible]ears;
We caſt the[illegible]reſ[illegible]
And, [illegible]dom, [illegible]

A [illegible] which happe[illegible] confirmed ſeveral Maxims of [illegible]. A Woollen-draper of my Acquain[illegible]table for his Learning and Good-natu[illegible] out his Pocket Book, wherein he ſhowe[illegible] the one End ſeveral well-choſen Mottos, [illegible] Patterns of Cloth at the other. — [illegible] Man, praiſed both ſorts of Goods, [illegible] tore out the Mottos, and generouſly gave them to me; but, with great Prudence, put up the Patterns in his Pocket again.

I am ſenſible that any Accounts of my own Secret Hiſtory can have but little weight with young Men of Sanguine Expectations. I ſhall therefore take this Opportunity to preſent my Wards with the

(Price Two Pence.)